

Dear Jim, Post as propagandist-what today's newest leak can mean to us 11/26/76

While I've been expecting more of this kind of Goebbels operation today's story is not what I expected. I've not even filed the file I started 11/13 when we were in Stevens Point.

I don't know what the story really says. It is too early for the paper.

First I heard a very brief account a little after 3, when I awakened and went back to sleep. When I awakened again about 5 and did get up I heard an item a little longer, by coincidence the first item on waking. The second one says that the CIA's electronic surveillance caught LHO offering the Russian information in return for a trip to Russia.

Those Post reporters and editors sure are the keenest! They ask all the searching questions, reason solidly and are determined not to be had again, as they were on the 11/13 story. So the double-check, consult dependable sources, etc. Mike Kesler told me, they're not proud of the 11/13 gulling.

So when he went to Mexico to make a deal with the Russians to get to Russia Oswald wanted to go by way of Cuba, perhaps the only place in the western world from which it was hard to get to Russia?

What priceless information he had! All the darkest secrets he learned while greasing coffee machines. Until he graduated to ostensible unemployment. -an't you imagine the secrets he learned in daytime prowling of the area of Canal and Camp in H.C.? The Rankies were crazy not to accept that offer, weren't they?

No wonder the Post went with the story. Or that Kesler, in his lack of pride in his sheet, had Volume 26 opened to CH 2952 when he phoned me the other night, the Hoover letter that says the most diligent FBI investigation disclosed not even an indirect LHO intelligence connection or political one with the Cubans or their friends.

Kesler, by the way, is a synthetic would-be old-time reporter who will do anything for what he considers a scoop. He does not give a damn if he can get it printed and he has told me that in the past. He wants to do investigative reporting. Remember the rotten thing he did with "Arper on RFD and what he would not use and the retraction the Post could not print when he obviously said what Arper could not have said?

On the face this is an unreasonable, illogical story. There is no way if it were legitimate that the Russians would not have said this at or shortly after the time of the crime, when the world had cooled some. It would for them have ended once and for all the US, particularly the CIA effort, to make it look like the Russians were behind it, what scared the hell out of LBJ, with CIA help-read Phillips.

Whether the CIA could have kept its silence is not as certain but I think it unlikely, given their political interests of the time. There was also the great risk in not telling both the FBI and the Commission, certainly Johnson. LBJ was worried about people thinking he was behind it. He and Russell had a discussion along this line. Russell told his suspicions would never end.

I do not believe it is likely that this secret would have been kept. It is a fake, even if they come up with the intercept in LHO's voice. Remember, I have this covered several ways with the CIA- with an all-inclusive request and with a separate one that I then wrote further about when CIA tried to ignore it, saying it was because I did not want to wait until some time in the remote future when they complete whatever they call a review of all their records. O instead they months later leak it to the uncritical Post,

On which Kesler tells me he alone is now assigned to the JFK story.

The first such leak convinced me that the time is now for filing for damages from non-compliance. I know the question is time. As it is with their destruction that is up-coming

These two leaks within a fortnight should be of help before Green and Robinson, in different ways. Before Robinson on the question of security classification, observance

A.E. 11/26/76 postscript

To Tom Cushman

Regardless of the basic accuracy of this morning's Post Kesler story, there is much wrong with it, to Kesler's prior knowledge wrong with it. He did not indicate it was this story but several night ago he did phone me on a JFK story, to ask if I knew a name not in the story.

The reason for this postscript is that this is the second spook leak of what is covered by my long-standing and ignored FOIA requests. The first was the Post story of 11/13 alleging a secret "cover memo. It is a non-story. Kesler told me they are not proud of it now, a statement not supported by his today's story.

With the surveillance I have long had such an inclusive request with the CIA. So long it is past their claimed lag. They tried to lump it in with my inclusive request. I rejected this, saying I did not want to wait until whatever time in the distant future they would admit to having completed whatever they decided to review.

I knew of these intercepts. When a friend filed an inadequate request I backstopped with an adequate one although I had already included it. Because Schweiker also knew and did nothing I made a separate request. I said I wanted it faster.

One also included the interception of Oswald's mail, certain when he was in the USSR.

While I have no way of knowing whether there was any such conversation I do know that the thing is utterly irrational.

The subject of the 11/13 leak is an FBI record.

Jim telegraphed Levi 11/13 and has had no response. Even acknowledgement.

Earlier in affidavit and beginning 9/16 and for several days in U.A.75-1996 we went into this. We had supervisory FOIA agents on the stand and I testified. They have reviewed these files three times as of then without responding to my requests that go back to 1968. I testified to this without even pro forma cross examination. By then I had a list of these requests made.

I have written Kelley, Levi and Shea repeatedly about this without response.

This is for your FOIA knowledge. In no case has the time of the claimed - and manufactured - backlog not passed with both agencies and DJ.

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